

FRENCH INDO-CHINA

attack European countries through their colonies and to establish an *entente* with Sun Yat-sen. That same year Nguyen-Ai-Quoc went to Moscow where he remained for some time studying revolutionary methods and associating with Soviet leaders who esteemed him for his remarkable intelligence. When thoroughly prepared he was sent to Canton, where he founded a branch of the League for Oppressed People, and—much more important—the Association of Revolutionary Annamite Youth: the first communist cell for Annamites in China. While working with Borodine in the adjacent province of Kwang Tung, Nguyen-Ai-Quoc was feverishly active in writing and circulating violently anti-colonial tracts in Indo-China and France.

Canton had long been the Mecca of Indo-China's communists. Every year on June 19 homage is rendered there to the Tonkinese student who, in 1934, threw a bomb at Governor Merlin. His tomb has become a pilgrimage shrine for Annamite youth, always under the influence of the dead, who have built up the customary legend around the bones of their patriot-hero. More constructive was the instruction offered to young Annamites at the politico-military school of Whampoa, founded at Canton by Borodine to prepare leaders for the world communist revolution. Russian, Chinese, and Annamite professors offered both theoretical and practical education in propaganda and revolutionary technique. The orientation Nguyen-Ai-Quoc gave to its programme was nationalistic rather than communistic, which he regarded as a subsequent stage. The Whampoa School formally expressed the aspirations of the nationalist-communist group: a reduction of the fiscal burden, especially in years of bad harvest; suppression of extra-

legal jurisdiction; division of the alluvial lands and abandoned rice-fields among the neighbouring peasants; and no recruiting of soldiers and coolies for foreign service.

In 1927, when the outlook for Cantonese communism was brightest, the attack directed against it by the Right Wing of the Kuomintang forced Borodine and Nguyen-Ai-Quoc to seek refuge in Russia. Here the latter was officially given the mission of founding Indo-Chinese communism. His prospects were brightened almost at once by the *entente* which his followers in Canton had managed to reach with the new authorities there, on condition that they would confine their activities to attacking French imperialism. By that time 250 Annamites had received revolutionary training abroad, and the great majority of them had returned to the colony, where they had garnered about 1,000 partisans. Each country had its committee which propagandized the